

while shifting the U.S. role from military occupier to reconstruction partner. This is what the American people want, Mr. Speaker. They want to help Iraq rebuild and become a free democratic society, but they want it done without another drop of American bloodshed. They want their sons and daughters, they want their mothers and fathers, their brothers and sisters, their friends and neighbors back home where they belong.

What we need now is action from Washington, not platitudes and photo opportunities, not inconsequential resolutions that require lawmakers to risk absolutely nothing. The American people are looking to Washington. They are begging for leadership. It is time this Congress and the President of the United States provided some.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WAR ON TERROR

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from North Carolina.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, international terrorism is an issue of life and death, not just for each of us individually but for our Nation and our way of life.

We did not want this fight. We didn't invite this fight. We did not wish to engage in this battle. However, once our enemy crossed over the line and confirmed for us and the world that they were unwilling to respect international law, respect individual liberty, and respect the sovereignty of nations, and that they were willing and desirous of engaging in mortal battle, no other option was left to us or to the civilized world.

Abu Musab al Zarqawi, on January 23, 2005, said this: "We have declared a fierce war on this evil principle of democracy and those who follow this wrong ideology." So this discussion over the past few days comes down to a fundamental question: What is the appropriate strategy and tactic to adopt to win the war on terror? Will we withdraw and simply defend a policy of isolation and containment, or will we aggressively combat terrorism and take the battle to our enemy?

Now, this war is unlike any other in history. Our enemy has no single home. It recruits and trains its army from nations around the world. The only unifying element is hate, hate for democracy and hate for liberty. Thankfully,

we have stayed the course. Thankfully, we have persevered in both Iraq and Afghanistan, because the greatest threat to terrorism is freedom and liberty and democracy in the Middle East and beyond.

And great progress is being made. Last week, the U.S. and Iraqi forces eliminated al Qaeda's top terrorist, Zarqawi. This was accomplished with excellent intelligence, and that information came from Iraqi citizens themselves. A very positive sign. And while Zarqawi was eliminated, finding him brought a wealth of information, allowing U.S. and Iraqi forces to dismantle many more pieces of al Qaeda's puzzle. And Iraq just this past week selected three more officials, cabinet ministers, to serve in its standing government. These are very positive accomplishments.

But it is also important for us to remember what led up to this war, and just a short look at a couple of the incidents over the last 30 years will bring it into focus and vividly demonstrate the death, destruction, and terror brought to Americans by our enemy.

The Iran hostage crisis in 1979, where our hostages were held for 444 days;

1983 suicide bomb attacks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 242 Americans;

1985, the *Achille Lauro* hijacking, where an invalid American was murdered in his wheelchair;

1988, Pan Am 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 259 people on board;

February 26, 1993, the first World Trade Center bombing;

1996, Khobar Towers bombing, U.S. Air Force barracks in Saudi Arabia, killing 19 U.S. military personnel;

1998, U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, killing over 300;

The year 2000, the USS *Cole* bombing, killing 17 U.S. sailors;

And then, September 11th.

Now, treating these incidents as crimes and not as acts of war, providing reactionary measures rather than moving proactively will not work. And how do we know? Because that is precisely what we did for decades, and the consequence was 9/11.

The campaign against the United States and its allies is ambitious, simple, and clear. Terrorists will stop at nothing to achieve their distorted sense of reality. We could have stayed out of this conflict. However, giving terrorists free rein would not make us any safer, and history has proven that. The price would be more innocent lives lost, more bombings, and not an ounce of peace. We must not be held hostage by terrorism. That is not living in liberty and freedom.

There are defining moments for every generation. And for this generation that defining moment is how we engage in this war on terror, highlighted by a very different post-9/11 world. When we came to that defining moment, to that tragic day, we, as a Nation, with our allies around the world, decided we would not allow terrorists to win.

Mr. Speaker, freedom isn't free. The choice is clear, our resolve is clear: we must and we will prevail.

REPORT ON H.R. 5631, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Florida, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-504) on the bill (H.R. 5631) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IRAQ

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to claim the time of the gentleman from Oregon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I call upon the President of the United States to present a plan to Congress to start bringing our troops home from Iraq.

It has been almost 4 years since the President came to Congress and sought the use of force in Iraq. At that time, Mr. Speaker, I voted against giving the President the use of force. It was not a popular vote in my congressional district, but it was the right vote. I was proud of my vote 4 years ago, and I am proud of my vote today.

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I have remained an outspoken critic of the President's policies in Iraq. There was no connection between Iraq and the attack on our country on September 11. There was no evidence of any weapons of mass destruction or nuclear weapons, and other weapons information was distorted. There was no direct threat against the United States.

We have paid a heavy price for the war in Iraq. Over 2,400 soldiers have died, 18,000 have been injured, and we have spent \$300 billion-plus of taxpayer money.

Our international standing has suffered. In December 2004, I visited the troops in Iraq. I wanted to see firsthand what was happening in Baghdad. My experiences I will not soon forget. I thanked our soldiers for their service to our country. They deserve to come home to their families and a grateful Nation.

A lot has changed in Iraq. It has been 3 years since the Saddam Hussein regime fell. It has been 2 years since an interim government was formed and the sovereignty of Iraq was transferred to that interim government. It has been 15 months since the first elections in Iraq. Iraq has a new constitution. They have elected a permanent government.

In December of 2005 we went on record in the defense authorization bill that 2006 should be a year of transition in which the Iraqi security forces take control of their own security. That has not happened.

It is time to change the policies in Iraq, and yet the President still says let's stay the course. We need a new direction in Iraq. That direction should include the drawdown of American troops. We have 130,000 soldiers serving in Iraq. 20 percent are from our National Guard and Reservists. Military experts have recommended a drawdown of 10,000 troops a month.

Although we should not announce a specific time schedule, it is reasonable to expect that one-half of our combat troops could be home by the end of 2006, and all of our combat troops home by the end of 2007. It should start with our National Guard. They were never intended to be the primary coverage for a military operation. We need them home to meet local needs.

This would allow us to achieve certain necessary objectives, bringing our troops home to their families and not in the middle of a civil war. It is an important message to the Iraqi government that they cannot assume that American soldiers will be there indefinitely to take care of their own security needs. It would remove propaganda for al Qaeda in which they look at the United States as being an occupation force, and it allows us to stage outside of Iraq to work with our allies and international community to fight international terrorism. We have lost our focus in the war against terror. It would help us preserve an all-volunteer military.

We also need to organize an international conference, including the Iraqi government and our friends internationally. The United States is the only superpower. We need to mend our diplomatic fences. We need to engage the international community. It is in their interest to help us in Iraq, to create a ceasefire for the Iraqi government and its militia, train the security forces, and coordinate humanitarian aid and infrastructure assistance.

We need to honor our commitment to our military veteran families and strengthen troop recruitment. The voluntary military is in danger because of excessive deployments. Morale is down because of long tours of duty and our failure to live up to our commitments on veterans' benefits.

The recruitment goal in 2005 was missed by 6,000, and our National Guard and Reservists have only hit 80 percent of their goal. The answer is the

proper deployment of our military and honoring our veterans, commitments on benefits, including health benefits, so that the 18,000 who are returning injured from Iraq and the 50,000 who we anticipate will have battle fatigue related issues are dealt with as we have promised.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the President to change course in Iraq in order to further U.S. interests.

FISCAL RESTRAINT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, there is an ongoing joke here in Washington that the Democrats have no agenda. It is a joke, Mr. Speaker, and it would be very funny if it were not so true. There are ongoing press reports, just this week there is a press report that the Democrats planned to roll out their agenda this week. Well, it is funny because they decided not to. Well, it is also funny because this is a press report that goes back since November of last year. They keep having these press reports that say we are going to roll out our agenda next week. The next week comes and goes, and no Democrat agenda.

It is an amazing thing that such a formerly great party with such high ideals and strong agenda can't even get together an election-year agenda. It is an amazing thing to me as a conservative who has an agenda, who is a member of a party who has an agenda. It is a wonderful thing that the party leadership won't come together. The party leadership won't come together and issue an agenda.

Now I know there are some on the other side of the aisle that have high ideals and have an agenda, but the Democratic leadership in Washington won't come together and issue an agenda. I am hopeful they will because I think what their agenda will show, when they do issue their agenda, it will show two things: Waving the white flag on the war against Islamic extremists and raising taxes. It is a two-part agenda, and I am going to boil it down to those two things.

They are going to wave the white flag and say this war is not worth fighting, let's bring all of our servicemen home. Let's just work with terrorist attacks on our home soil rather than taking the fight to the enemy wherever they are.

The second part of that is big government. How do you have big government, Mr. Speaker? You have big government by having big taxes, by taking more out of the economy and bring it here to Washington, D.C., by taxing people more wherever they are in this Nation, Mr. Speaker, by taxing them more, and bringing that money here to Washington and running programs out of Washington.

Big government liberalism is still at the heart of the Democratic Party, and that is something that is very out of step with what the American people want.

Let's talk about what the Republicans have done and what our conservative leadership here in Washington has done. Just in the last 33 months, we have had wonderful job growth across this Nation. Within the last 3 years, we have had 5.3 million new jobs. Why? Because we have restrained spending in Washington. Well, not as much as I would like as a conservative, but we have been able to restrain spending here in Washington, and excessive growth of government. And we have been able to pass tax cuts that let Americans keep more of what they earn.

Those two things have led to this wonderful job creation, and that is why this House continued to pass tax cuts every year since we have taken the majority as Republicans. Every year we have passed tax cuts since 1995. And those results that we have shown the American people have led to the economy expanding.

Moreover, when the economy expands and people have jobs through these lower taxes, through conservative fiscal policy, you know what happens? As they make more money, they pay more taxes. The Federal Government gets more revenue when people are working, Mr. Speaker.

These things work, and the American people know it and they are benefiting from the prosperity that through conservative fiscal policy, we have helped lead the Nation in this right direction.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is a very severe contrast between the two ideologies that underpin the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. They are two disparate views of the world and how we defend our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, we should have this great debate, not just on the war, which we have had for the last 10 hours on the House floor, but we should also have a debate about fiscal policy.

As a conservative, I don't believe we have done enough in terms of fiscal policy, but we are making progress and that progress is getting real results. That is a wonderful agenda for a conservative party to stand for. Now we look forward to our opposition on the other side of the aisle to one day to come up with an agenda.

REDEPLOY OUR TROOPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, we were promised another chance to debate our policies with respect to the war in Iraq. Yesterday and today we had that debate. But those who listened to that debate need to understand that it was mere theater.

We had before us today a resolution that could only be voted up or down,